



The people of South Hadley take great pride in the town's classic New England character, the physical beauty of its open spaces, and extraordinary views of the Connecticut River and Mount Holyoke Range. Citizens value the benefits of being part of a college town, and believe South Hadley is a great place to raise families. Residents appreciate the small town atmosphere, friendly neighborhoods, sense of community, and commitment to civic involvement.

Throughout the two-year process of developing a new Comprehensive (or Master) Plan, South Hadley residents have consistently expressed a desire to shape the town's future. This interest suggests a community that is actively engaged in considering its long-term goals as well as in developing the policies and practices that will achieve those goals.

From the River to the Range and from the Center to the Falls, the new Plan seeks to maintain and enhance our quality of life, and promote engagement in supporting South Hadley's future development while preserving its character and heritage.

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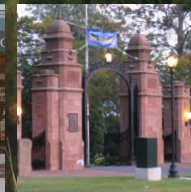
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Comprehensive Plan

Shaping Our Future



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SOUTH HADLEY

MASSACHUSETTS

The purpose of a Comprehensive Plan is to help us actively shape our future, rather than leaving it to chance. Our town's last Comprehensive Plan, completed in 1979, is long out of date. Without a relevant Plan that reflects present conditions, our town's government, businesses, organizations, and residents—no matter how well intentioned—lack the tools they need to work well together to tackle the issues that matter most for our shared future.

In 2007, a citizens Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee was formed to guide the development of a new Plan. This Plan, which will help to define the town's attention and investment over the next five to ten years:

1. Represents our community's best thinking about how we can preserve what we love about South Hadley while moving toward the future residents would like to see
2. Articulates South Hadley's critical long-term challenges and opportunities
3. Provides a set of achievable goals
4. Invites South Hadley's citizens, organizations, and government to work together to improve the quality of life for current residents and for the next generation



For nearly two years, town residents have attended public forums, filled out surveys, talked about what they like and dislike about South Hadley, and shared their personal visions for the future of our town. As a result of this process, the Plan puts forward a host of goals, strategic objectives, and recommended actions that are organized around four, often-voiced Core Principles:

- **MANAGING TOWARDS A VISION**
Coordinated, goal-oriented town actions, regulations, and investments
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
Accurate and easily accessed information about town resources, activities, and policies
- **SUSTAINABILITY**
Integrated policies and actions that promote efficiency and environmental awareness
- **LEADING BY EXAMPLE**
Modeling best practices and innovation in all aspects of town operation and governance

Shaping Our Future

“This Plan is South Hadley's opportunity to envision our desired future, to prepare for change, to recommend the best possible steps we can take, and ultimately to shape the future we want.”

— 2009 Comprehensive Plan



South Hadley's two historical population centers, the Falls and the Center, have long provided a rich diversity of physical settings, neighborhoods, and community resources. A thriving South Hadley will have a robust economic base to provide a range of business and employment opportunities, a variety of housing options to meet its residents' needs, and educational and cultural resources to enrich residents' lives; at the same time, fragile open spaces, agricultural lands, vistas, and water resources need to be protected for the benefit of current and future generations.

The new Plan outlines five Core Initiatives for invigorating and enhancing our town's public spaces, economy, and opportunities:

- South Hadley Falls revitalization
- Investing in the Route 116/Route 33 center
- Connecting and enhancing South Hadley's community centers
- Securing open space: range, river, rural areas
- Updating regulations and standards for improved outcomes

Success in meeting these objectives will require both public- and private-sector actions. All residents are encouraged to review the full draft of the Plan (available on the town website).

